

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, August 9, 2006

**Slaughter Announces \$5,000,000 in Federal Funding for U of R's Wilmot Cancer Center**

**Research and Economic Development Will Both Benefit**

**Washington, DC** - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, was today joined by Joel Seligman, President of the University of Rochester to announce \$5,000,000 in federal funding Rep. Slaughter has secured in the 2007 House Defense Appropriations Bill for the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center at Strong Hospital.

Also in attendance at the event were Dr. Brad Berk, Senior V.P. for Health Sciences and CEO of the University of Rochester Medical Center, and Dr. Richard Fisher, Director of the Wilmot Cancer.

**"The Wilmot Center has the rare distinction of improving lives globally and right here in Rochester,"** Rep. Slaughter said. **"The pioneering research that goes on here could save tens of millions of lives, at home and abroad. And in the process, we will see jobs being created and greater economic security for our workers."**

**"For everything it does, the Wilmot Center deserves our unwavering support,"** Rep. Slaughter said.

The funding, included in the 2007 House Defense Appropriations Bill, will help the Center conduct innovative, interdisciplinary research aimed at improving the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, bringing together leading researchers from both the Medical Center and the University.

Upcoming work will include research to understand the cellular and molecular basis of five of the most common cancers, including breast, prostate, lung and colon cancer, along with leukemia and lymphoma.

The funding will also be a boon to Rochester's economy. The University of Rochester is now Rochester's largest employer, with the Medical Center directly or indirectly employing 20,000 people, and producing a total economic output of 1.9 billion dollars annually.

Expansions possible thanks to this new funding are projected to lead to more than 1,900 new jobs, which would increase the Center's impact on the total regional payroll to \$71 million.

These ongoing capital improvement projects at UPMC have created over 4,500 construction jobs. Future expansions are projected to create 1,200 new jobs, along with 700 additional indirect support positions.

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